

Senator Blanche L. Lincoln
912 West Fourth Street
Little Rock, AR 72201
501.375.2993

The following is a summary of the requirements which must be met for appointment to one of the United States Service Academies and of the procedures which will be followed by Senator Blanche L. Lincoln in making nominations for such appointments. This information is necessarily general in nature and additional information should be obtained from academy catalogs. Different procedures may be followed in other congressional offices, therefore, when applying for a nomination from Senator Lincoln, be careful to follow her specific instructions for application.

ACADEMY APPOINTMENTS IN GENERAL

Each Senator is authorized to have a maximum of five cadets in each of the following academies: the Military Academy at West Point, New York; the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland; the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado; and the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York. Using the competitive nomination method, a Senator may nominate ten candidates for each vacancy which is available to be filled by her in a given year. The academy, using its selection standards, will make the final selection of the person to fill the vacancy.

Appointments to the Coast Guard Academy, located at New London, Connecticut, are handled by the Academy itself on a competitive basis. Members of Congress do not nominate to this academy. Attached is an information sheet concerning the eligibility requirements, service obligations, and application procedures in effect for this academy. Further information should be obtained from the Coast Guard authorities.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Entrance standards for Arkansas candidates for the service academies include the following:

Age: You must be at least 17 and not have passed your 23rd birthday on July 1 of the year you are to be admitted. (25th birthday for Merchant Marine Academy)

Citizenship: You must be a citizen of the United States by birth or naturalization. If foreign born, you will need to provide proof of naturalization.

Residence: You must be a permanent resident of Arkansas. If you are currently residing outside of Arkansas, because parents are in the military for instance, you will need to provide a statement certifying your legal residence is in

Arkansas.

Marital Status: You must be unmarried, not pregnant, and have no legal obligation for support of a child or other dependents.

Medical Standards: You must successfully undergo qualifying medical and physical aptitude examinations.

Scholastic Standards: Your high school records and performance on college entrance examination board tests (SAT or ACT) must show adequate preparation to indicate you have potential to succeed at an academy. College students are eligible, but, upon acceptance, they must attend an academy for four full years. Transfer of credits may be granted.

Leadership Standards: You must have demonstrated the potential for leadership through participation in extracurricular activities, community activities, or after school or summer work.

SERVICE OBLIGATION INCURRED

Every cadet, upon being accepted in one of the defense service academies, will be required to sign a binding agreement that a number of obligations will be fulfilled, including the following:

1. Agreement that you will complete the academy course of instruction, unless properly disenrolled by academy authorities.
2. Agreement that you will accept an appointment and serve as a commissioned officer for at least five years immediately upon graduation from the academy.

3. Agreement that if authorized to resign from the regular component before the sixth anniversary of your graduation, you will serve as a commissioned officer in the reserve component until the sixth anniversary.

Cadets at the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy, who are being educated for a career in the civilian merchant marine, have the status of Midshipmen, U. S. Naval Reserve, during their cadet years and are commissioned Ensigns, U. S. Naval Reserve, upon graduation. They assume a moral obligation to sail as merchant marine officers for at least five years after graduation.

These and other limitations should be considered carefully prior to competing for a nomination for the service academies.

An academy will require that a candidate take medical and physical aptitude examinations at a specified location between July 1 and the date of acceptance into the academy. A candidate will also be required to take either the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) of the College Board Admissions Testing Program, or the American College Testing Program Test (ACT). Scores on these tests, plus the candidate's academic record, including secondary school class standing, are primary factors considered in determining whether a candidate is academically qualified. Early exam completion will help insure early notification by an academy.

If you have not already done so, you should immediately contact the academy of your choice and fill out a pre-candidate questionnaire so that a file will be established for you. The academy will notify you of the dates for medical and physical exams. Your high school counselor can assist you with dates for the ACT and SAT. You are not required to take both, however, if you do, we will accept the higher score, and you are allowed to take the tests as many times as time will permit.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. It is important to note that the academies' authorized strength is greater than the number of candidates available through the established appointment procedures. A candidate who has been nominated by a Member of Congress and is found qualified in all respects for admission to an academy, but does not receive an appointment to the vacancy to which nominated, is automatically placed in a pool of qualified alternates. Full academy strength is realized by selecting young people from this pool on a competitive basis. The importance of this pool as a source of academy candidates is often not realized.

2. Because academy deadlines are final, it is essential that Senator Lincoln's office and the appropriate academy be immediately informed of any change of address, change of status, or change of intention on the part of the applicant.

3. It is entirely acceptable for Arkansas applicants to apply to both their United States Senators, to their U. S. Representative, and to the Vice President. Such additional applications improve a candidate's chance of receiving an academy appointment.

4. If you are serious about applying for a nomination, you must return to the Academy a pre-candidate questionnaire furnished by the academy in order for your qualifications to be evaluated.

5. When applying to Senator Lincoln for a nomination, it is very important that you follow her instructions for applying. Letters of recommendation must be addressed to Senator Lincoln for her consideration. Only three letters will be accepted. Copies of letters of recommendation addressed to someone else will not be acceptable. Use the application form provided by this office. Do not use an application form from another congressional office.

6. Although we do not interview applicants, we encourage the applicant to call if you need additional information or have any questions. It is important to note that we want to hear from the applicant because it shows his or her desire to attend the academy. Personal desire to attend an academy is absolutely necessary rather than the desire of someone else such as a family member. If it is at all possible, we encourage you to visit the academy of your choice before making a commitment or have a personal visit with a liaison officer in your area. Your high school counselor should have a list.

7. When applying to Senator Lincoln, it may be good for you to select at least a second choice of academy in the event you are not nominated to your first choice.

8. The Arkansas Congressional Delegation works very closely together to try and provide to as many candidates as possible every consideration by the service academies for offers of appointment.

9. In the event you are selected by an academy for an appointment, Senator Lincoln will be notified first and we will contact you immediately by phone at school if possible. You will then receive official notification from the academy of what procedures you will need to follow to accept the offer.

11. If for some reason you do not receive a nomination, but feel you are qualified, you may reapply to Senator Lincoln for a nomination for next year.

The competition for appointment as cadet is based on the candidate's high school rank, performance on either the College Board Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or the American College Testing Assessment (ACT) results and leadership potential as demonstrated by participation in high school extra-curricular activities, community affairs, or part-time employment. Most

successful candidates rank in the upper half of their class and demonstrate a high degree of proficiency in both the mathematical and scientific academic area.

REQUIRED

Mathematics - to include algebra, plane or coordinate geometry, or their equivalents in courses such as those suggested by the Commission of Mathematics of College Entrance Examination Board, 3 English 1, 2, and 3.

Total.....6

OPTIONAL

Further evidence of adequate preparation amounting to seven units of optional subjects is required and may be offered from the following groups:

Additional English

Social Science

(history, civics, etc.)

Additional Mathematics

Biological Science

(biology, zoology, etc.)

Physical Science

(physics, chemistry,
general science, etc.)

Foreign Language (not
less than 2 units of a
foreign language will be
accepted)

The additional two units required may be offered from occupational, commercial, fine arts, military science, public speaking, and certain other non-academic fields. While not required, it is strongly recommended that the candidate include solid geometry, trigonometry, physics, and chemistry in preparation for the Academy.

The candidate may submit both high school and college credits. Because of the great variation in academic standards and credit requirements among schools, the Commandant reserves the right to evaluate each academic record submitted on its individual merits. In general, college credits and high school credits from accredited institutions will be given the same weight for the same amount of work, and in no case will one semester of college work be considered equivalent to more than one unit of high school work. The Commandant reserves the right to reject any applicant whose assigned grades create doubt as to his ability to pursue the Academy course successfully.

All candidates must be between 5' and 6'6" (waiver possible to 6'8" by the Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard), with weight suitable to their physique, and be in excellent physical condition. The most common medical reason for rejection are:

(a) Defective vision: A candidate shall have an uncorrected visual acuity no poorer than 20/200 in either eye correctable to 20/20. Additionally, refractive error shall not exceed +3.50

diopters in any meridian. Astigmatism shall not exceed 3.0 diopters and anisometropia shall not exceed 3.5 diopters; and
(b) Defective color vision: All dental caries must be repaired prior to reporting to the Academy.

Coast Guard cadets obtain an excellent undergraduate education at no personal cost and, in addition, receive pay and allowances fully adequate to fulfill their ordinary living expenses.

The Academy academic program which is continuously under revision in order to be responsive to both the Coast Guard and the young men and women in the Corps of Cadets, currently consists of the following majors: Marine, Ocean, Electrical, and Civil Engineering; Marine Science, Mathematical Sciences, Physical Sciences, management and Government. These areas of academic interest, combined with the varied elective courses, establish a solid foundation for a challenging career. Graduates of the Academy are awarded a Bachelor of Science degree and are commissioned as Ensign in the United States Coast Guard. Selected officers may pursue further post-graduate education and specialized training in many leading civilian and military graduate or professional schools in such fields as aviation, business administration, electronics, engineering, law, naval architecture and oceanography.

The Academy graduate can look forward to a varied, exciting, and demanding career as a regular Coast Guard Officer. The Coast Guard performs essential humanitarian missions vital to the safety and saving of lives at sea. Under the auspices of the Department of Transportation, the Coast Guard establishes and coordinates search and rescue operations by ship and plant, maintains advanced electronic and other aids to navigation scattered around the globe, operates the icebreakers which clear the way for all polar expeditions and enforces marine law and all aspects of Merchant Marine safety. In addition, the Coast Guard has responsibility for boating safety and marine environmental protection.

Applications and additional information may be obtained by writing to:

Director of Admissions
U.S. Coast Guard Academy
New London, CT 06320